

REQUEST FOR ARTIST SUBMISSIONS

CONNECT/DISCONNECT: PUBLIC ART LOUISVILLE 2015 Exploring Louisville's Urban Riverfront through Public Art

A Public Art Exhibition Presented by Louisville Metro Government and the Commission on Public Art

Louisville Metro Government, in conjunction with the Commission on Public Art (COPA), is inviting artists to transform a unique riverfront site at the Ohio River through an exhibition of temporary, site-specific public art installations in the fall of 2015. Through compelling and interactive art projects, *Connect/Disconnect* will invite visitors to explore and contemplate the riverfront in its present state and engage with the many layers of this vibrant post-industrial river city.

Five local and national artists are developing public art installations as part of *Connect/Disconnect*. These projects will be on site August through November of 2015. In conjunction with the August-November installations, an additional three to five artists will be invited to create event-based installations, interventions, performances, or programs to further activate the riverfront and enrich the visitor experience.

This is an open call to artists based in Louisville and Jefferson County to submit materials to be considered. Three to five artists or artist teams will be selected to create event-based installations, interventions, performances, or programs with a budget of \$2,000-\$3,000 each. Materials are due July 13, 2015.

Exhibition Site Context

The site for *Connect/Disconnect: Public Art Louisville 2015* is located just west of downtown along the Louisville Loop, roughly between 8th and 12th Streets and North of Rowan and Washington Streets. The site sits at the intersection of many threads of Louisville's history and geography, and is quite literally the intersection of its transportation network; highways, trains, barges, and trails all converge at this riverfront spot. In spite of all of this activity, it is largely a place that is passed through, that connects people with other places without being a place itself. Here we see the present-day detachment of an area along the Ohio River from the city and its lively downtown, just blocks away, as well as adjacent neighborhoods.

Though this stretch of the riverfront is in many ways disconnected from the city, it is also charged with energy and possibility. Areas of the riverfront are both industrial and natural. Situated at the edge of the Louisville and Portland Canal, and in sight of the historic Louisville and Indiana Railroad Bridge, the site was in many ways the nexus of the working riverfront. In other areas visitors can easily access the Ohio River and get a sense of its power and natural beauty. There are stunning views of downtown, the Portland neighborhood, and the river to Indiana across the way.

As part of the Louisville Loop, a highly successful and growing trail system that will eventually encircle the city, this area has a growing number of visitors, and a future phase of the Waterfront Park system will soon transform the site into a widely used public amenity.

Connect/Disconnect will commission artists to re-contextualize this riverfront site and create projects that investigate the connections between this space and the larger Louisville community, including its many systems and networks. Through compelling and interactive projects, artists will invite people to explore and contemplate the riverfront in its present state, before it is again transformed. Each commissioned artist will be tasked with one specific area of the site, as well as a specific time period during the exhibition. This rare opportunity presents artists with a chance to create new work that addresses the place of the river in Louisville today.

Connect/Disconnect is an inaugural project of Louisville Metro Government with the Commission on Public Art and builds upon recommendations in the Louisville Public Art Master Plan, developed by Creative Time in 2009. The exhibition will complement and highlight Louisville's emerging leadership as a center for contemporary art.

Exhibition Goals

- Explore the unique qualities of the site and the site's relationship to the Louisville Loop.
- Encourage exploration of the Louisville waterfront by regular and new visitors alike.
- To reconnect the riverfront to adjacent neighborhoods, including the nearby bustling downtown.
- Creatively engage with and activate the site in new ways.
- Invite interaction and contemplation.
- Create a visual impact and be visually stimulating.
- Appeal to a broad audience.

Exhibition Timeframe

The *Connect/Disconnect* exhibition will be on view from August to November 2015. Through this call, artists will be commissioned to install or perform during specific dates throughout the exhibition period, the duration of which will be determined by each project individually. For installations, artists will be required to de-install the works and return the site to its original state.

Budget

Three to five artists or artist teams will be invited to create event-based installations, interventions, performances, or programs with a budget of \$2,000-\$3,000 each. This budget will include all costs of creating the artwork, including but not limited to artist fees, design, fabrication, installation costs, and the cost of removing the work and returning the site to its original state. Louisville Metro Government will provide support to the project and assistance with site permits.

Technical Considerations

Installation sites will likely be limited to property owned by Louisville Metro Government or an associated entity. There will not be access to electricity on the site. All works must be able to be

removed without negatively altering the site. Louisville Metro Government will provide technical review of all concept proposals and assist with permitting.

Selection and Review Process

Submittals will be reviewed by a Project Committee comprised of local arts professionals and representatives of the Commission on Public Art, the Waterfront Development Corporation, and Louisville Metro. From these submittals the Project Committee will commission three to five artists who will be placed under contract to develop and implement a project. Selected artists will be required to submit a proposal for the Project Committee's review, and implement the project by an agreed upon deadline.

Anticipated Timeline

July 13, 2015	Submittals Due
July 24, 2015	Artist selection begins
August 7	First round of artists invited to submit proposals will meet with project manager, visit site, set schedule for proposals and project implementation
Aug-Nov	Projects installed and/or performed, 3-5 total commissions

To Submit

Please send us the following materials by July 13, 2015:

- A brief statement describing your interest in the project and how you would approach the project. *A full proposal is not required at this time.*
- A CV/resume and 3 - 4 references.
- Up to 10 jpeg images of previous artwork.
- A corresponding image list with title, medium, dimensions, brief description, location, date of work, commissioning entity and budget.

Please send or email your materials to:

Public Art Initiative
444 S. 5th Street, Suite 600
Louisville, KY 40202
Publicartinfo@louisvilleky.gov

Please save written materials as a PDF and images in JPEG format (at least 300 dpi). You may send us your materials on USB flash drive, compact disk (CD), or via email. If you email, please use a file sharing service such as Dropbox.

If you have any questions, please email or call Sarah Lindgren at sarah.lindgren@louisvilleky.gov or 502.574.1554.

See following page for site map.

